December 1, 2015

TO: Chief School Administrators
    Charter School Lead Persons

FROM: Kimberley Harrington, Chief Academic Officer
      Division of Teaching and Learning

SUBJECT: Pilot for the Blended Online Learning Modules

The Division of Teaching and Learning is inviting schools to participate in a pilot for the Blended Online Learning Modules to support Professional Learning Communities (PLC) in the State of New Jersey.

This pilot has been developed by the New Jersey Department of Education utilizing the Connected Action Roadmap (CAR). The CAR framework has been endorsed and supported by the Partnership for Collaborative Professional Learning, a partnership of the major education organizations and institutions in New Jersey. This program is intended to build the capacity of educators in New Jersey schools to work effectively in PLCs using the Blended Online Learning Modules to deepen their work. The NJDOE expects that the pilot schools will experience improved educator practice and student engagement during the pilot year by using collaborative structures to enhance the design and delivery of curriculum, assessment and instruction, as well as build a foundation of shared leadership responsibilities and collective commitments for higher student achievement.

The Pilot Program will run from January 5, 2016 to October 31, 2016. There is no direct funding to the school for entering into the pilot program. Initial training of a school leadership team will begin in early February. All training and coaching supports will be provided. Applications should be made by the principal of the school with the support of central administration and the educators within the school. Pilot teams are asked to review the Blended Online Modules Overview as well as the Connected Action Roadmap Overview before beginning the application process.

Submit all application materials electronically by December 15, 2015. If your school is interested in participating in the pilot program, please find the application and overview of the modules attached.

KH/RK

c: Members, State Board of Education
    David C. Hespe, Commissioner
    Diane Shoener
    Senior Staff
    Executive County Superintendents
    Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
    Executive County Business Officials